

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT/JP2003/008080

PCT

Rec'd PCT/PTO 28 DEC 2004

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference 663542	FOR FURTHER ACTION		See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2003/008080	International filing date (day/month/year) 26 June 2003 (26.06.2003)	Priority date (day/month/year) 28 June 2002 (28.06.2002)	
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC C12M 1/00, C12N 11/02, 5/06, A61L 27/00, D01F 8/16			
Applicant CHEMICAL BIOLOGY INSTITUTE			

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of <u>4</u> sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:
a. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis of this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
<input type="checkbox"/> sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.
b. <input type="checkbox"/> (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).
4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. I Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. II Priority
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VI Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/> Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand 09 January 2004 (09.01.2004)	Date of completion of this report 04 February 2004 (04.02.2004)
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No. BEST AVAILABLE COPY

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____, which is language of a translation furnished for the purpose of:

international search (under Rules 12.3 and 23.1(b))
 publication of the international application (under Rule 12.4)
 international preliminary examination (under Rules 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report):

The international application as originally filed/furnished

the description:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the claims:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____, as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

the drawings:

pages _____, as originally filed/furnished

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____

a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

the description, pages _____

the claims, Nos. _____

the drawings, sheets/figs _____

the sequence listing (specify): _____

any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

4. This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

the description, pages _____

the claims, Nos. _____

the drawings, sheets/figs _____

the sequence listing (specify): _____

any table(s) related to sequence listing (specify): _____

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* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP 03/08080

V. Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

1. Statement

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-15	YES
	Claims		NO

2. Citations and explanations

Document 1: JP 3-15475 A (Sekisui Chemical Co., Ltd.),
23 January 1991

Document 2: JP 6-277038 A (Iatron Laboratories, Inc.),
04 October 1994

Document 3: JP 2002-128958 A (Shin'ichiro NISHIMURA), 09
May 2002

Document 4: EP 544259 A1 (Lignyte Co., Ltd.), 02 June
1993

Document 5: JP 9-173362 A (Menicon Co., Ltd.), 08 July
1997

Document 6: JP 2002-146086 A (National Institute of
Advanced Industrial Science and Technology),
22 May 2002

Document 7: EP 1201749 A1 (Merck Patent GmbH), 02 May
2002

Document 8: WO 01/64848 A1 (Takagi Industrial Co.,
Ltd.), 07 September 2001

Document 9: WO 95/01810 A1 (Smith & Nephew PLC), 19
January 1995

The inventions that are set forth in claims 1-15 involve an inventive step in relation to documents 1-9 cited in the international search report. Documents 1-9 do not disclose a "chitosan/acidic-biopolymer hybrid fiber".

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION REPORT

International application No.

PCT/JP 03/08080

wherein the interior of the fiber comprises chitosan or a salt thereof and the surface of the fiber is coated with a complex of chitosan and a bioabsorbable acidic biopolymer, characterized in that the fiber is capable of maintaining its form even after two weeks at room temperature in a DMEM medium to which 10% of FBS (fetal bovine serum) has been added," and even a person skilled in the art could not easily have conceived of such a feature in the light of documents 1-9.